

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable transtracheal surgical apparatus comprising:  
a first flange operable to be placed on the neck of a patient and having an opening therein said first flange having a first curvature;  
a second flange having an opening therein operable to be placed in the trachea of a patient and to secure the surgical apparatus therein said second flange having a second curvature opposite the first curvature; and  
a shaft having a lumen therethrough connecting said first and second flange openings, said shaft, for receiving and securing an a transtracheal oxygen supply line.
2. (Currently Amended) The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second flange are offset ~~90-0~~ 90° from one another.
3. (Original) The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1, further comprising through holes formed in the first flange for affixing the apparatus to the patient.
4. (Currently Amended) The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second flange comprises a first and a second thickness, said second thickness portion being smaller ~~that~~ than the first and being sufficiently flexible to assist in the implantation of the apparatus.
5. (Original) The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a catheter inserted into the lumen for connection to an oxygen supply.
6. (Original) The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 5 wherein the distal end of the shaft includes a raised surface to prevent the insertion of said catheter beyond a desired point.
7. (Original) The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 5 wherein said catheter comprises a bushing larger in diameter than the lumen to prevent the insertion of the catheter beyond a desired point.

8. (Original) The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 5 wherein the catheter comprises a preformed bend.
9. (Original) The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 5 wherein the catheter comprises a beveled end for easing insertion into said shaft.
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Original) The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first flange has a durometer hardness of about 70 and the second flange has a durometer hardness of about 50.
12. (Currently Amended) An implantable transtracheal oxygen supply system comprising:  
a first flange operable to be placed on the neck of a patient and having an opening therein;  
a second flange having an opening therein operable to be placed in the trachea of a patient and to secure the surgical apparatus therein; and  
a shaft having a lumen therethrough connecting said first and second flange openings, for receiving and securing an oxygen supply line; and  
a catheter inserted into the lumen of said shaft.
13. (Currently Amended) The oxygen supply system of claim 12, wherein the first and second flange are offset ~~90-0~~ 90° from one another.
14. (Original) The oxygen supply system of claim 12, further comprising through holes formed in the first flange for affixing the apparatus to the patient.
15. (Currently Amended) The oxygen supply system of claim 12, wherein the second flange comprises a first and a second thickness, said second thickness portion being smaller ~~that~~ than the first and said second flange being sufficiently flexible to assist in the implantation of the apparatus.

16. (Original) The oxygen supply system of claim 12 wherein the distal end of the shaft includes a raised surface to prevent the insertion of said catheter beyond a desired point.
17. (Original) The oxygen supply system of claim 12 wherein said catheter comprises a bushing larger in diameter than the lumen to prevent the insertion of the catheter beyond a desired point.
18. (Original) The oxygen supply system of claim 12 wherein the catheter comprises a preformed bend.
19. (Original) The oxygen supply system of claim 12 wherein the catheter comprises a beveled end for easing insertion into said shaft.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Original) The oxygen supply system of claim 12, wherein the first flange has a durometer hardness of about 70 and the second flange has a durometer hardness of about 50.
- 22-25 (Cancelled)